

Nine Candidates Seeking Election to School Post

YOUR SECOND FRONT PAGE

Torrance Herald

EDITORIALS * * * FEATURES * * * WANT ADS

MAY 15, 1958

TORRANCE HERALD

Nineteen



Charlton Mewborn

Attorney Charlton A. Mewborn, 43, a member of the board of education for the past four years and a past president of the board, is seeking re-election at the May 20 election.

An active leader in community affairs, Mewborn is a member of the Kiwanis Club, Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, Los Canioneros, and has served on the YMCA board of managers.

Speaking this week on his campaign for re-election, Mewborn defended the policies of the school district and the administration, saying he was proud of the achievements of the school board, and denying emphatically that it was a "rubber stamp board," as has been charged by some of the candidates.

"I am seeking re-election on my record as a member of the board during the past few years," he said.

Replying to statements that the school board should strengthen its contacts with the people, Mewborn said "we do have a good contact with the people in the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee."

He added that "everything we can do, we do to establish a good relationship with the community."

Mewborn is a former president of the Seaside Ranches Homeowners Assn., and a member of the legal firm of Mewborn and Hitchcock.

He was graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor of arts and received his legal training at the University of Southern California.

E. Ray Walker

A four-point program calling for a proven policy of teaching methods, a higher standard of education, more experienced educators as administrators, and an emphasis on the quality of the graduating student, has been advocated by E. Ray Walker, 36, of 4907 Reese Rd., a candidate for the board of education at the May 20 school election.

"The board of education should set standards and goals high enough so students will be reaching, and should instruct the administration to see that students do reach," he said recently.

Walker said the board should consider some changes at the top administrative level, study the merit of separating elementary and high school administration, and explore the possibility of establishing a junior high school system.

A native of Texas, Walker has lived in Torrance for eight years, moving here from Redondo Beach. He was a Marine Corps sergeant during World War II serving in the South Pacific.

He studied petroleum chemistry, advanced petroleum refining, and allied subjects at Harbor and El Camino colleges. He is employed as a refinery operator for Standard Oil at El Segundo.

Walker told members of the Kiwanis Club here this week that he continued to get a feeling of dissatisfaction among people he had talked to about schools.

The schools need to be strengthened academically, and "you don't get there by talking about enrichment programs," he said.

Walker lives with his wife, Jean, and two daughters here and has been in this area for 25 years.

Three United

"One of the most successful Sunday services was held May 11, at the Southwest Christian Church," declared Elders Gordon Pittman, Bert Knoles and Alfred Sollars, today. At the morning service, there were three united with the church which makes the fourth week running since Joel Rivers has been with the church that additions have been received into the fellowship.



Clinton Cooke

One of the two incumbents seeking election to the board of education May 20 is Clinton C. Cooke, 37, general superintendent of the fabricating department of National Supply Co.

"There can be only one platform for any board candidate," he states. "That is to insure continuance of the philosophy of the Torrance Unified School District, based on the theory that schools are an agency created to assist parents in training their children for good citizenship."

Cooke is a native of Long Beach, and attended Gardena High School. He received his college education at the University of Texas, receiving his degree in mechanical engineering in 1946.

"The educational goals of the school boil down to recognizing that demands of our society call for the maximum effort to educate all of our children," he told the Kiwanis Club here this week.

Cooke says a board member must be interested in all phases of the school program, particularly the academic program. But, he maintains, a board member cannot ignore the economic or business aspects of the district.

"A board member must also be able to accept criticism," he said. "Criticism sharpens a board member's awareness of the problems."

Cooke lives with his wife, Helen, and three children at 16216 S. Wilson Pl. He served with the U. S. Navy in the British West Indies during World War II, and was later transferred to the V-12 program at the University of Texas. He is a member of the Tau Beta Pi and Pi Tau Sigma, engineering fraternities.

John Merriell

Active in school affairs for many years in Illinois before making his home in Torrance, John M. Merriell, an electrical design engineer for an aircraft company, believes a member of the board of education should have administrative experience, and that the board should always be active and responsible for reviewing and measuring education achievement.

Merriell, who lives at 5018 Reese Road with his wife, Laura, and three children, says he came to Torrance specifically because of the reputation of its school system when he moved here from Illinois last year.

"I am interested in what happens to my own children, and am thereby interested in the school situation and in the school board," he said at a recent public meeting.

The engineer said there was insufficient incentive in the school system here now, and that it is not challenging.

"The schools' job is to do as much as possible for each child," he said. "A means should be found for more rapid progression through the school system for those who are able."

Merriell is a native of Minneapolis, and attended Shaw High School in East Cleveland, Ohio. He was graduated from Purdue University in 1944 with a degree in electrical engineering.

He is a member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers; Eta Kappa Nu, honorary electrical engineering society; Pi Kappa Phi, social fraternity, and First Church of Christ.

The Merriell family moved to Torrance early last year from Freeport, Ill.

INTERVIEWS

Interviews for high school graduates and those soon to graduate who are interested in enlistment in the WAF (Women in the Air Force) are now being scheduled by Sgt. Leland "Lee" Mason, local U. S. Air Force Recruiter.

Sgt. Ruth Sobul will be in the San Pedro recruiting office from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., May 20.



William Boswell

A call for emphasis on academic achievement rather than "social adjustment," has highlighted the campaign of William C. Boswell, 39-year-old aircraft company publications manager of 2842 Onrado St.

Teachers should be instructing in their major fields at the intermediate and high school levels, and the curriculum should be examined to eliminate playtime electives, he has said in his campaign appearances throughout the city.

Describing himself as not a "post-Sputnik" school critic, Boswell points to his campaign of two years ago for the board of education which parallels his present drive.

A member of the Torrance Optimist Club and president of the Torrance chapter of the City of Hope, Boswell has been speaking for an expansion of the vocational arts program in Torrance schools, and in introduction of definite standards of achievement. One of his specific recommendations has been the introduction of foreign languages at the intermediate level in the city schools.

He would recommend a physical education program in the intermediate level, and seek a standardized homework program if elected, he has stated.

Boswell has lived in Torrance for 11 years. He was graduated from Hollywood High School. His wife, Mary Lee Boswell, is a former moderator of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee, and the couple has one daughter, Pamela, 8, a student at Madrona Elementary School.

Foot Soldiers To March for Hope Sunday

Some 850 dedicated volunteers, the "foot soldiers" of the City of Hope, are set to march on Hope Sunday, June 8, in Torrance.

In making this announcement, Louis Tabak, president of the free, nonsectarian Medical Center, pointed out that in this and many other communities throughout Southern California, where the day-long house-to-house canvass will be held, there are no campaign leaders.



Dr. Donald Cortum

"There is mounting evidence for the need to return to more fundamental education—the three Rs, basic moralities, and patriotism," Dr. Donald Cortum, 33, of 333 Calle de Andaluca, said recently during a meeting of school board candidates.

A native of Aurora, Ill., Dr. Cortum has lived at his present address for more than three years. He is president of the Bay Harbor Osteopathic Society, and on the staff at Magnolia Hospital in Long Beach, the Gardena Hospital, and the Bay Cities Community Hospital.

"We must teach the students between right and wrong, and give them a high standard of moral values and patriotism," Dr. Cortum stated. He says the board of education has the job of directing and controlling the curriculum instead of turning it over to an educator.

Dr. Cortum would strive for fewer elective non-academic courses if elected, he reports. He also calls for grading of students by achievement—not effort; setting minimum standards for graduation from all grades, especially for the high school grades; grouping students according to ability; using teachers to teach in their major field of study; and encourage teachers to improve their knowledge in the fields of their choice through salary credits for subject study as well as studies in methodology.

Stating that he had made no commitments in his campaign, Dr. Cortum said he could only assure the voters that, just as he took an oath to serve humanity as a doctor, so would he perform his school duties.

Ex-Priest to Speak Here

Henry Groining, a former Catholic priest, will be guest speaker at two services Sunday at the Lomita Church of God, 2388 Lomita Blvd., it was announced yesterday by Rev. Clifford Hitchcock, pastor of the church.

The former priest will speak on the topic, "God's Way and Man's Way," at the 11 a.m. services Sunday and will give a short talk and answer questions at the 7:30 p.m. services.

Universal Law of Abundance Topic

Dr. Earl D. Barnum will speak on "Have Abundance—Will Share" Sunday at the Church of Religious Science in Redondo Beach.

This is the third in a series of four May lectures dealing with qualities of character. The principle of sharing and the quality of faith in the face of seeming lack are points of the Universal Law of Abundance which Dr. Barnum will emphasize.



CHANGES ANNOUNCED . . . "There have been some changes made, boys," says movie and television starlet Juli Redding. Six big Clark Markets become fabulous Food Giant Markets effective with the Giant of Giant Sales this week end at six former Clark Markets and Food Giant Markets. The Clark Market customers will be greeted today by the same friendly employees. A four-page colored insert announcing the Food Giant Sale is published in today's HERALD.



Cecil Sampson

Shortcomings of any school system are the responsibility of the board of education, not the administration, Cecil Sampson, a Los Angeles school teacher and candidate for election to the Torrance board of education said recently.

Sampson, 44, who lives at 4210 Carmen St., with his wife, Hannah, and two children, said science and engineering are essential, but these two subject fields should not be emphasized to the exclusion of the social sciences.

"The people in my area favor more emphasis on reading, science, and mathematics, but also want their children to know that they live in a world where there are different opinions and different groups of people," he stated.

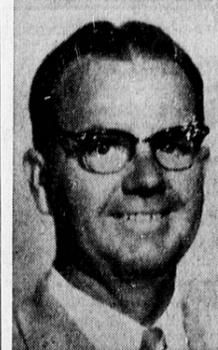
"The school board is representative of the public, so it should determine the objectives and ways to achieve these objectives," he states. "The board, not the administrators, should set policy."

He also called for more emphasis in teachers' field of study rather than in methods and techniques of education.

Sampson is a native of New York City, and took his education work at the University of Southern California. He attended public schools in New York. He has taken graduate work at SC and at Long Beach State College.

During World War II he served with the Army Medical Corps. He is a member of the Torrance Coordinating Council, and a board member of the Southwood Homeowners Assn.

There would be no conflict of interest between his teaching job in Los Angeles and the board job if elected, he said.



E. S. Ryon II

"I am both a classroom teacher in a neighboring community and a candidate for the Torrance school board," Edwin S. "Ned" Ryon II, said this week.

"Schools are my business," he added. He said he was in the race for the school board to contribute whatever training and experience he may possess.

Ryon, who lives at 815 Calle de Arboles, in the Riviera section of Torrance, is 48 years of age. He has lived here three years and has two children in Torrance schools and two out of high school. He is a teacher at the Valmonte Elementary School in Palos Verdes Estates.

He is campaigning on a four-point program: (1) to help develop a curriculum that would be of greatest benefit to the individual pupil; (2) to help attract and to keep teachers with good training and unquestioned teaching ability; (3) to establish better lines of communication between the board and the community; and (4) to give both recognition and credit to the many many able teachers and administrators.

"The school board must be sympathetic to the teachers at all times. The teachers are the basic ingredient of education," Ryon said at a meeting in Waverly recently.

The candidate is a deacon in the First Baptist Church of Los Angeles, and holds memberships in the National Education Assn., California Teachers Assn., Palos Verdes Faculty Club, Horseless Carriage Club, and is a past member of the Van Nuys Post of the American Legion.

LIMITED OUTPUT
At the turn of the 20th century, total motor vehicle production in the United States was just 4,192 cars.

Theater Actors Use Hammers, Saws for Props

"Operation Jackhammer" began last Saturday at Hampton Players' theater-to-be at 100 Wall St., Redondo Beach. Chief protagonists in this noisy drama were Contractor Harold Drews of Palos Verdes Estates, Cliff Tunis of Hollywood Riviera, and Mac Perdue of Manhattan Beach.

Drews is donating his services in supervising all the construction work on the job; Tunis has been a steady worker behind the scenes for Hampton since its inception seven years ago, and Perdue is a new resident in the South Bay who volunteered his services.

Others who have wielded sledge hammers in these remodeling preliminaries are Carl Rogers and Bob Schultz, both of Hollywood Riviera; Bruce Bullock, a South High teacher who will also play a key role in the first show to be given at the new theater, "The Male Animal;" Hal Douglas, president of Hampton Players, and Dick Dugan and Denton Wable of Redondo Beach.

Once the 18-inch-thick concrete footing is poured, a 1½-ton steel I-beam will be inserted in the cavity which is to become the theater's proscenium arch.

Bids for directing the play to follow "Male Animal" are now being accepted by President Hal Douglas. The play will be the comedy, "The Desk Set," and it is expected to hit the boards around July 1.

Partisanship Not Evident By Endorsers

Emphasizing the fact that partisanship goes out the window as far as the re-election of Assessor John R. Quinn is concerned, heads of the County Central Committees of both major parties have endorsed Quinn's candidacy.

They are Robert Finch, Republican, and William H. Rosenthal, Democrat.

Quinn headquarters pointed out that these endorsements of Quinn parallel those of Paul Ziffren and Edward S. Shattuck, Democratic and Republican National Committeemen respectively.



RECEIVES PLAQUE . . . President O. R. Trueblood of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce shown, above presenting plaque of appreciation to Mrs. Victor E. Benstead Jr. for her leadership as chairman of the decorating committee for Torrance's prize winning float in the Tournament of Roses parade. Interested spectators are Mrs. Isabella Coleman, famed 50-year veteran float designer, and Councilman George A. Bradford, who was the chamber's float chairman.